(c) and (d) Export Promotion Council under Department of Commerce has already initiated a study under Market Access Initiative Scheme to promote Indian granite, marble and other stones to US market. The study would also identify the strategy to promote Indian marble from Rajasthan area too. In the next phase, selected exporters would be requested to participate in the trade exhibitions and buyers sellers meets in USA. This market effort is expected to continue for some time and as a result marble export from Rajasthan will get a boost.

Closure of industrial units

466. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered industrial units in the country during the last five years along with details of the total strength of labour in these units for these periods, State-wise and period-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an increasing trend in closing down of industrial units; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor along with the number of workers affected by this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New industries in North-Eastern Region

467. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medium-size industries which are in existence at present in the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plan to set up new industrial plants/medium-size factories;

(c) if so, the details of such schemes/plans which are under consideration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?